

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendment is respectfully requested. This amendment is intended to place the claims in a more conventional format and eliminate the multiple dependency of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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Page 3, Paragraph Beginning at Line 3

Thus, if a network of [60] 64 antenna, for example, is considered, the minimum time for detecting a portable object in front of an antenna being 25 milliseconds, each antenna is interrogated every 1.6 seconds (64 x 25 milliseconds).

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1. (Amended) A method of detecting portable objects using a network of N antennae, controlled by a centralised management unit, [principally characterised in that it includes] comprising the following steps:

[- the transmission by the management unit of] transmitting signals simultaneously to all the antennae from said management unit,

[- the reception by the said unit of] receiving a resulting signal by said management unit, said resulting signal comprising response signals from the antennae which have detected a portable object, and

[- the successive selection of] successively selecting each object detected from this resultant signal, according to a pre-established sequence.

2. (Amended) A detection method according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein the successive selection of each object is effected by the use of an anti-collision algorithm.

3. (Amended) A detection method according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein the reception of the resulting signal by the management unit is obtained by the reception of the response signals from the antennae respectively at [the] an input [point] port of the unit [reserved for] assigned to each antenna, and adding [the] said signals.

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4. (Amended) A detection method according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein the reception of a resulting signal by the management unit is obtained by reception of [the] said resulting signal at an input [point] port of the unit [reserved for] that is assigned to all the antennae in the system.

5. (Amended) A detection method according to [any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that] claim 1, wherein the reception of the resulting signal includes a step of identifying the origin of the response signals forming [the] said resulting signal.

6. (Amended) A detection method according to [Claims 3 and 5, characterised in that] claim 14, wherein the identification of a response signal includes a step of storing the identification of the [corresponding] antenna [known by] associated with the input [point] port at which the response signal is received.

7. (Amended) A detection method according to Claim 6, [characterised in that the storage consists of] wherein said storing step includes positioning a flip-flop in a logic state and deactivating it when the unit has entered into communication with the portable object detected by the corresponding antenna.

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8. (Amended) A detection method according to [Claims 4 and 5, characterised in that] claim 15, wherein the identification of a response signal includes a step of concatenating the identification of the antenna in the response signal sent by the antenna.

9. (Amended) A system of detecting portable objects including a network of N antennae associated with transmission/reception means and a centralised management unit, [characterised in that] comprising:

[- the management unit (OG) includes:

- transmission/reception means (ER1) connected to the transmission/reception means of the antennae,

- the] transmission means [of] in the management unit [being able to send] that is connected to transmission/reception means of the antennae and that sends signals simultaneously to all the [antenna] antennae,

[- and the] reception means [of the] in said unit being [able to receive the] that is connected to said transmission/reception means and that receives response signals from the antennae which have detected a portable object, in the form of distinct signals for each antenna or a resulting signal[, according to] in accordance with the type of connection established between the transmission[/] and reception means of the management unit and the antennae, and

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[-] means [(AL)] for successively selecting each portable object detected according to a pre-established sequence.

10. (Amended) A detection system according to Claim 9, [characterised in that] wherein the means for successively selecting each portable object detected in a pre-established sequence includes an anti-collision algorithm.

11. (Amended) A detection system according to Claim 9 [or 10, characterised in that] wherein the transmission[/] and reception means of the management unit and the transmission/reception means of the antenna are connected in point-to-point mode [(I1-IN)] by connections of the serial transmission type.

12. (Amended) A detection system according to Claim 9 [or 10, characterised in that] wherein the transmission[/] and reception means of the management unit include an input [point (I)] port connected to all the antennae by a connection of the serial transmission type.

13. (Amended) A detection system according to Claim 11, [characterised in that] wherein the management unit includes an antenna discriminator [(D)].